

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 22, 2008.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner objected to claim 1 indicating there is a lack of antecedent basis for the limitation “place on the bottom of the cleaning container.”

Applicants submit the present amendment to claim 1 obviates this objection.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 7-8 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeleChem, in view of Lord (US 4,442,852) in further view of Ferrell (US 5,505,785). Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully submit that TeleChem, taken alone or in combination with Ferrell and Lord, fails to disclose, at least, “a support member placed on the bottom of the cleaning container for supporting the fixing member” or “wherein the supporting member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution such that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution,” as recited in claim 1.

In the Response to Arguments section of this Office Action, the Examiner makes several comments which directly contrast with the express disclosure of the Telechem reference. In particular, the Examiner asserts:

(1) Telechem teaches in Figures 1 and 2 that the legs of the support member hold the fixing member above the bottom of the tank; and

(2) The Examiner is well aware that TeleChem suggests placing a certain amount of solution into the tank to prevent damage; however, this does not take away from the fact that the tank is able to have less than the amount of cleaning solution suggested as taught by the Telechem reference. Therefore, Telechem teaches the supporting member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution so that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution.

(Office Action, pp. 2-3).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Telechem fails to disclose or fairly suggest any such feature. Rather, Telechem expressly discloses that nothing contacts the bottom of the tank, and further, directly *teaches away* from any such modification. First, Telechem discloses that the pin cleaning rack is a *floating* rack. (p. 3-9 of Telechem). Second, Telechem discloses that the ultrasonic bath is filled with liquid before the floating rack is placed in the ultrasonic bath. (p. 3) Third, Telechem discloses that the ultrasonic bath should not be operated with cleaning volumes that permit something to rest on the bottom of the tank. (p. 3).

Consequently, Telechem's disclosure is in direct contrast to the Examiner's position regarding anything resting on the bottom of the bath and operating the bath with less than the amount of cleaning solution suggested. Because Telechem expressly teaches away from these features, Applicants also submit one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Telechem to have these features. Rather, based on Telechem's express teaching away, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find the requisite likelihood of success to make such a modification.

In conclusion, TeleChem's fixing member (*see* p.4) is not fixed above the cleaning solution, rather, TeleChem's pins are placed in a floatable pin cleaning rack. (p. 3, fig. 2). As

illustrated in figure 2, this floating pin cleaning rack floats on the surface of the cleaning solution. Consequently, there is no supporting member which supports the floatable pin cleaning rack above the cleaning solution. Additionally, because the pin cleaning rack is floatable, it is not placed on the bottom of the cleaning container. Furthermore, because Ferrell and Lord fail to disclose any supporting member which supports a fixing member above a cleaning solution, even if TeleChem, Ferrell and Lord are combined as suggested by the Examiner, the suggested combination fails to disclose all the features recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 it is allowable for at least this reason. Additionally, Applicants submit claims 2 and 7-8 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claim 3 and 9 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeleChem in view of Ferrell and Lord, and in further view of Jackson (David P. Jackson, *Centrifugal Shear Carbon Dioxide Cleaning* (Precision Cleaning '95 Proceedings)).

Applicants respectfully submit because Jackson, either taken alone or in combination with TeleChem, Ferrell and Lord, fails to compensate for the TeleChem/Ferrell/Lord combination as applied to claim 1, claims 3 and 9 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

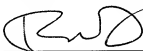
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/802,717

Attorney Docket No.: Q80002

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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